SUBJECT No. 150.

Exemption from payment of a rupee in the case of date trees, naturally decayed.

Mr. Venkatappa, Shimoga Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—It is prayed that the rule passed regarding the recovery of one rupee for every dead date tree from the contractor be relaxed in cases where there is no wanton destruction of such trees.

Mr. D. Venkataramaiya, Bangalore City Municipality.—Trees are badly tapped by contractors. The fine should be increased.

Reply of Government.—Specific cases of hardship should be brought to the notice of the Excise Commissioner.

SUBJECT No. 151.

Default in payment of excise *khists*.

Messrs. Dasappa and Chowdaiya, Arsikere Taluk; and Venkatappa, Shimoga Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—When excise contractors make default in the payment of *khists* by the 20th of each month, interest at one pie per rupee is levied together with a fine of 2 per cent. As this operates as a hardship, one or the other of these punishments may be abolished. Both the penalties have been levied in certain cases in the Arsikere Taluk.

Reply of Government.—The circular of the Excise Commissioner will be referred to and the matter considered.

SUBJECT No. 152.

Speedy payment of excise revenue of *inam* villages.

Messrs. V. Raghavachar and Madappa, Mysore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The toddy revenue of *inam* villages is held in deposit by Government for more than ten or twelve years. In instances where the title of the *inamdars* to such revenue is established, speedy payment is requested.

Messrs. Amble Anniah Pandit and D. Venkataramaiya.—For the period as to which there is no doubt, payment may be made without delay. The enquiry should be restricted to the period after 1897.

Reply of Government.—The matter will be enquired into and the disposal of claims expedited.

SUBJECT No. 153.

A special officer to enquire into the claims of *inamdars* to toddy revenue.

Messrs. V. Raghavachar and Madappa, Mysore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Government were pleased to frame a set of rules some seven or eight years back to enquire into and dispose of the claims of *inamdars* to toddy revenue. In accordance therewith many cases have been disposed of, and many still remain pending disposal. To bring the matter to a close soon, a special officer may be appointed under the designation of Inam Commissioner.

Reply of Government.—Noted. The early disposal of these claims is being insisted upon. There is at present a doubt as to the precise scope of the benefits which should accrue to a privileged *inamdar*.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL BOARDS.

(*Nos. 154 to 171.*)

SUBJECT No. 154.

Non-official Vice-Presidents or Chairmen for local bodies.

Summary of discussion.—Assistant Commissioners and Amildars are now appointed as Vice-Presidents of Municipal Councils and District and Taluk Boards. In their

Messrs. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Municipality; and V. Raghavachar, Mysore Taluk.

multifarious duties, they have hardly any time to attend to municipal affairs. Whenever educated men are willing to work for the public good, Vice-Presidents may be elected for Municipal Councils and District and Taluk Boards from amongst the non-official Councillors.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 155

Election in all municipalities.

Mr. M. Venkatakrishnaiya, Mysore City Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—The elective principle may be introduced into all municipalities.

Reply of Government.—The elective system has been introduced in all the municipalities constituted under the Municipal Regulation of 1906. Action is being taken as regards the non-regulation minor municipalities where all the Municipal Councillors are appointed by Government, to bring them under the Regulation or to convert them into unions.

SUBJECT No. 156.

Amildars and Deputy Amildars to be *ex-officio* members of the District Board.

Mr. Seshadri Iyengar, Tumkur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—When doubts arise as to what particular work or works should have preference over others having due regard to the funds available, the opinion of the Amildars is valuable. The non-official members cannot be expected to know the conditions of the whole taluk, and the Sub-Division Officers may not have seen the particular locality. The necessity having been brought to the notice of the Government, it has been ordered that these officers may be called upon to attend the meetings. It is entirely discretionary with the Presidents either to call them or not. In the Madras Presidency all the Tahsildars are members of the District Board. Our regulations may be so amended as to admit Amildars and Deputy Amildars being nominated as *ex-officio* members of the Board.

Reply of Government.—The existing rule does not require any modification. If the number of official members is increased there will have to be a corresponding increase of the number of non-official members and such a large addition to the strength of the District Board is not desirable.

SUBJECT No. 157.

Constitution of Municipalities.

(1) Messrs. Dasappa, Chowdaiya and Marulasiddappa, Arsikere Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Government have ordered that places containing a population of 5,000 and upwards should be constituted into municipalities, the others being formed into unions. The minimum population may be reduced to 3,000 as even taluk head-quarters will otherwise have to be converted into unions.

(2) Mr. S. Dasappa, Bangalore District Board.

(2) The importance of all taluk head-quarters should be maintained by constituting them as independent municipalities.

Reply of Government.—The question of constituting all taluk head-quarters into municipalities under the Municipal Regulation of 1906, is under consideration.